

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action, the present application has been reviewed and amended in order to overcome the objections and rejections set forth by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the application be reviewed and reconsidered in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 regarding a number of informalities noted in the claims. These informalities have been corrected by way of the above amendment. The Examiner also objected to the specification and required a substitute specification due to the top line of text on some pages being obscured by hole punches. Applicant respectfully request that this requirement be held in abeyance until the application is otherwise in condition for allowance. In the interim, the application has been amended with replacement paragraphs for each occurrence where the top line has been obscured.

The Examiner also rejected claims 19 and 20 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 4,608,409 to Coady et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,508,916 to Newell et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. According to the Examiner, "[i]t would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to omit the photo initiator from the compositions disclosed by Coady et al and to use electron beam irradiation instead of UV irradiation to cure the compositions, as taught by Newell et al for the curing of analogous acrylated urethane/acrylate monomer compositions." [See Page 3 of Office Action, last paragraph.] However, there is no suggestion in either reference for such a combination. Any such suggestion is being read into the references as a result of impermissible hindsight. Accordingly, this rejection of claims 19 and 20 should be withdrawn.

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Reply to Office Action of April 1, 2003

Claims 19 – 21 were rejected under 35 U.S. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,116,786 to Hodakowski. The rejection based on anticipation is clearly improper. There is no showing in Hodakowski that the disclosed process results in a “cured film having the memory of a specified shape” as required by the claims. With respect to obviousness, there is no suggestion in Hodakowski that the disclosed process results in a cured film having the characteristics and properties of the film that results from Applicant’s process. Accordingly, this rejection of claims 19 – 21 also is improper and should be withdrawn.

For the reasons set forth above, all claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. An early indication such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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